UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	Heinz Heissler et al
Application Number:	Unassigned
Filing Date:	Concurrently Herewith
Group Art Unit:	
Examiner:	
Title:	DISHWASHER WITH AN AUTOMATICALLY REGULATED DRYING PROCESS

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.98, I am submitting a completed "INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANTS" *(Form PTO/SB/08A)* with patents and/or publications as delineated therein attached.

JP4-53522 discloses a humidity sensor 50 is fitted to the upper portion in a drying chamber 6, and a means for taking in the humidity information from the sensor 50 and reflecting it in operation control is provided in a microcomputer. The microcomputer 48 includes a reference humidity storage means 60, a set humidity storage means 61 for giving the humidity of the stop reference for drying operation according to a desired drying degree input by a user, a comparing means 62 for taking in a humidity value (y) from the reference humidity storage means 60 or the set humidity storage means 61 and comparing the same with a humidity value (x) from the humidity sensor 50, and a drying operation stop means 63 adapted to operate when the latter humidity value (x) is smaller than the former value (y) in the comparing means 62 in addition to a circuit for an ordinary operation control for a dish washer.

JP 9-94212 discloses a dry-bulb temperature detecting means 10 compris a thermister, as is a wet-bulb temperature detecting means 11 which is embedded in a thin block of highly ventilating and hygroscopic urethane fiber. When entering the drying process, energizing starts for a heating means 6 for heating washing water and drying air and for an air intake means 5, so that the inside of the housing is heated with the inside air replaced with the outside air through the air intake means 5. Simultaneously, humidity detection for discriminating the completion of drying is carried out through an output Td of the dry-bulb temperature detecting means 10 and an output Tw of the wet-bulb temperature detecting means 11. The humidity thus determined is inputted in a means for detecting completion of drying, compared with a threshold value, and discriminated as the completion of drying if the humidity is below the threshold value, so that a signal is outputted to indicate the completion of drying.

DE 42 30 576 discloses that the dishwashing machine has a motor-driven fan which is rotated in opposite directions to deliver air to the rinsing drum or expel air from the latter, dependent on the required drying cycle. Pref. the fan is driven by a reversible electric motor (4) and has two separate fan wheels (5.7;6,8) rotated in opposite directions to transport different quantities of air contained in a common fan housing with tangential output connections extending in opposite directions. One of the fan wheels may transport different quantities of air dependent on its direction of rotation, the other transporting a uniform quantity of air for both directions of rotation.

EP 1 344 487 discloses that the wash chamber (1) of a dish washing machine has air circulated through a duct (2) during the drying cycle and openings are provided covered by glass plates (12) for the optical sensors (10,30) comprising light emitting and receiving diodes. A dry glass plate results in a received signal.

JP10-258014 discloses a humidity sensor 28 to detect humidity in air for drying that is exhausted is arranged on the upper wall of an air exhaust duct 5. After the start of a drying mode, humidity detection is started, a control section 31 judges if previous detection humidity is lower than this time detection humidity. If the answer is yes, the humidity sensor 28 is regarded as following the sharp rise in the initial humidity, and the drying operation is continued on the judgement that the humidity sensor 28 is operating normally. If the answer is no, as the humidity sensor 28 is regarded as abnormal or a heater 20 is considered to be

malfunctioning, an alarm is given by an alarm lamp or buzzer, and the heater 20 is brought to a halt and drying operation is stopped.

JP1-265932 discloses a series of processes consisting of washing, rinsing, and drying with standard time, temp., etc. preset are conducted as a standard course. A key 22 alters the setting time for the drying process to any desired, while a humidity sensor 13 senses the humidity under the drying process. As the refer ence value a memory 26 stores the humidity sensor output at the finish of the altered drying time, even while the power supply is shut off. Further a finish judging part 29 judges that the reference value is attained by the measure ment based on the humidity sensor output during conduction of the next drying process and thereafter, and a process control part 27 finishes the drying process on the basis of the output from this finish judging part 29. This permits attain ment of the desired drying condition continuously regardless of varying temp. and humidity.

If no translation of pertinent portions of any foreign language patents or publications mentioned within the "INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANTS" is included with the aforementioned copies of those applications, patents and/or publications, it is because no existing translation is readily available to the Applicants. As per the Notice in 1273 OG 55 (August 5, 2003) no copies of any above-mentioned US patents and US patent application publications are submitted for this application which was filed after June 30, 2003.

Respectfully submitted

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May 25, 2006

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 2

Complete if Known	
Application Number	Unassigned 10/580579
Filing Date	Concurrently Herewith
First Named Inventor	Heinz Heissler et al
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	2003P01285WOUS

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.[1]	Document Number / Number-Kind Code[2] (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.[1]	Foreign Patent Document / Country Code[3]-Number[4]-Kind Code[5] (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T[6]
/N.B./		JP4-53522	02/21/1992	Yoshikatsu Okamoto		
/N.B./		JP9-94212	04/08/1997	Ikuko Kai		
/N.B./		DE 42 30 576	03/17/1994	Hans-Joachim Klug		
/N.B./		EP 1 344 487	09/17/2003	Helmut Nuechter		
/N.B./		EP 1 127 532	08/29/2001	Ezio Gobbi		✔
/N.B./		JP10-258014	09/28/1998	Yasumusa Nakajima		

Examiner Signature	/Naomi Birbach/	Date Considered	07/14/2009

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. [1] Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). [2] See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. [3] Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). [4] For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. [5] Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. [6] Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

PTO/SB/08A (08-03)
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/N.B./		JP1-265932	10/24/1989	Koichi Yoshizaki		
/N.B./		International Search Report PCT/EP2004/053084				✓

Examiner Signature	/Naomi Birbach/	Date Considered	07/14/2009

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